

4B COMMUNICATIVE First or last?

- a** Look at some famous first and last lines from novels.
Try to decide which are first lines and which are last lines. Write **F** or **L**.

- 1 ☐ 'He was soon borne away by the waves and lost in darkness and distance.'
- 2 ☐ 'I'm so glad to be at home again.'
- 3 ☐ 'It's a funny thing about mothers and fathers. Even when their own child is the most disgusting little blister you could ever imagine, they still think that he or she is wonderful.'
- 4 ☐ 'James Bond, with two double bourbons inside him, sat in the final departure lounge of Miami airport and thought about life and death.'
- 5 ☐ 'Somewhere in La Mancha, in a place whose name I do not care to remember, a gentleman lived not long ago, one of those who has a lance and ancient shield on a shelf and keeps a skinny nag and a greyhound for racing.'
- 6 ☐ 'Then with a profound and deeply willed desire to believe, to be heard, as she had done every day since the murder of Carlo Rizzi, she said the necessary prayers for the soul of Michael Corleone.'
- 7 ☐ 'Tomorrow, I'll think of some way to get him back. After all, tomorrow is another day.'
- 8 ☐ 'Many years later, as he faced the firing squad, Colonel Aureliano Buendía was to remember that distant afternoon when his father took him to discover ice.'
- 9 ☐ 'Mr. Phileas Fogg lived, in 1872, at No.7, Saville Row, Burlington Gardens, the house in which Sheridan died in 1814.'
- 10 ☐ 'The creatures outside looked from pig to man, and from man to pig, and from pig to man again; but already it was impossible to say which was which.'



- a** *One Hundred Years of Solitude* Gabriel García Márquez
- b** *Gone With The Wind* Margaret Mitchell
- c** *Goldfinger* Ian Fleming
- d** *Matilda* Roald Dahl
- e** *Around the World in Eighty Days* Jules Verne
- f** *Animal Farm* George Orwell
- g** *The Godfather* Mario Puzo
- h** *Frankenstein* Mary Shelley
- i** *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* L. Frank Baum
- j** *Don Quixote* Miguel de Cervantes

- b** Compare your answers with a partner and then match the lines to novels a–j.

- c** Talk to a partner.

- 1 Which do you think is the best first line? Does it make you want to read the book?
- 2 Have any of the last lines spoiled the book for you?
- 3 Have you seen the film of any of these books?
- 4 Which (if any) of these books have you read? What did you think of it / them?